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AREA 88

by KAORU SHINTANI

20

BIWEEKLY

A Military Plane
Above Yamato Flight #82
Threatens the Safety
Of Shin's Love Ryoko.

VIZ COMICS

AIRLINES
TEL AVIV TOWER TO YAMATO 82! LUFTHANSA 93 HAS JUST LANDED! YOU ARE CLEARED TO LAND!
YAMATO 82, ROGER!
GEAR DOWN!
FLAPS, 15 DEGREES!
WE WILL APPROACH FROM THE NORTH FOR AN INSTRUMENT LANDING.
YAMATO AIRLINES
TOWER, ROGER!

MISSION 20:
THE SKY OF PASSION
YAL
YAMATO
VEEEEOOO

TEL AVIV TOWER TO THE MILITARY PLANE ABOVE YAMATO 82! YOU'RE TOO CLOSE! MOVE AWAY!
WHAT?!
KANZAKI TO CONTROL! IS THERE SOMEONE ABOVE US?!
A MILITARY PLANE-- AT 12 O'CLOCK!
KANZAKI KANZAKI... FOR WHAT YOU DID TO ME!
SHIN!!
SHEEA ATTACK

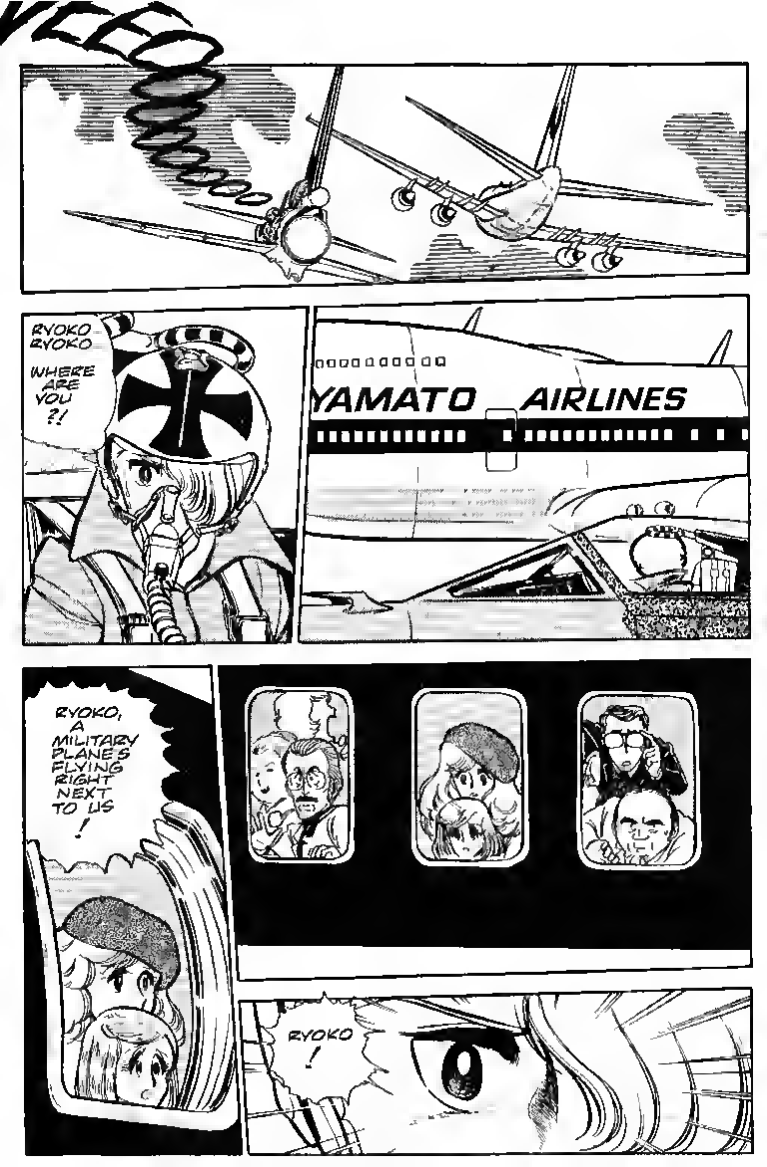
DAMN!
YOU!!
BOOM
FA

YAAHH!!
WAAH!!
RYOKO!
WHAT HAPPENED!? WHAT'S GOING ON?!
IT'S USELESS TO ESCAPE!
HOW CAN AN AIRLINER EVADE A JET FIGHTER?!
YAMATO AIRLINES
STOP, SHIN! RYOKO'S ON THIS PLANE!!

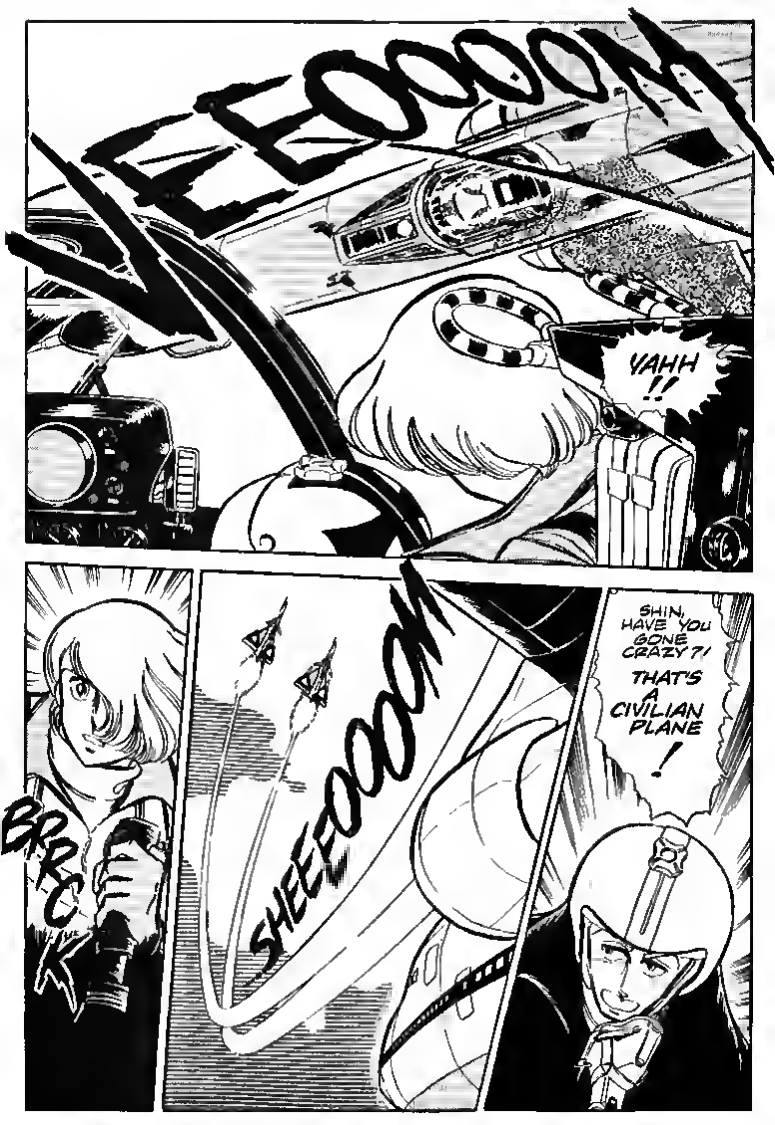
RYO!!
CHAK
BOOM

AHH!
R-RYOKO... ON THAT PLANE?!
IT CAN'T BE!

RIOKO!
TAEKO!
CAPTAIN, WHAT HAPPENED ?!
CONTROL! THIS IS YAMATO 82! WE HAVE JUST BEEN ATTACKED !
WHAT'S GOING ON !?
THIS IS CONTROL! WE ARE CHECKING NOW !
WHAT A DAMN STUPID THING TO DO, SHIN !

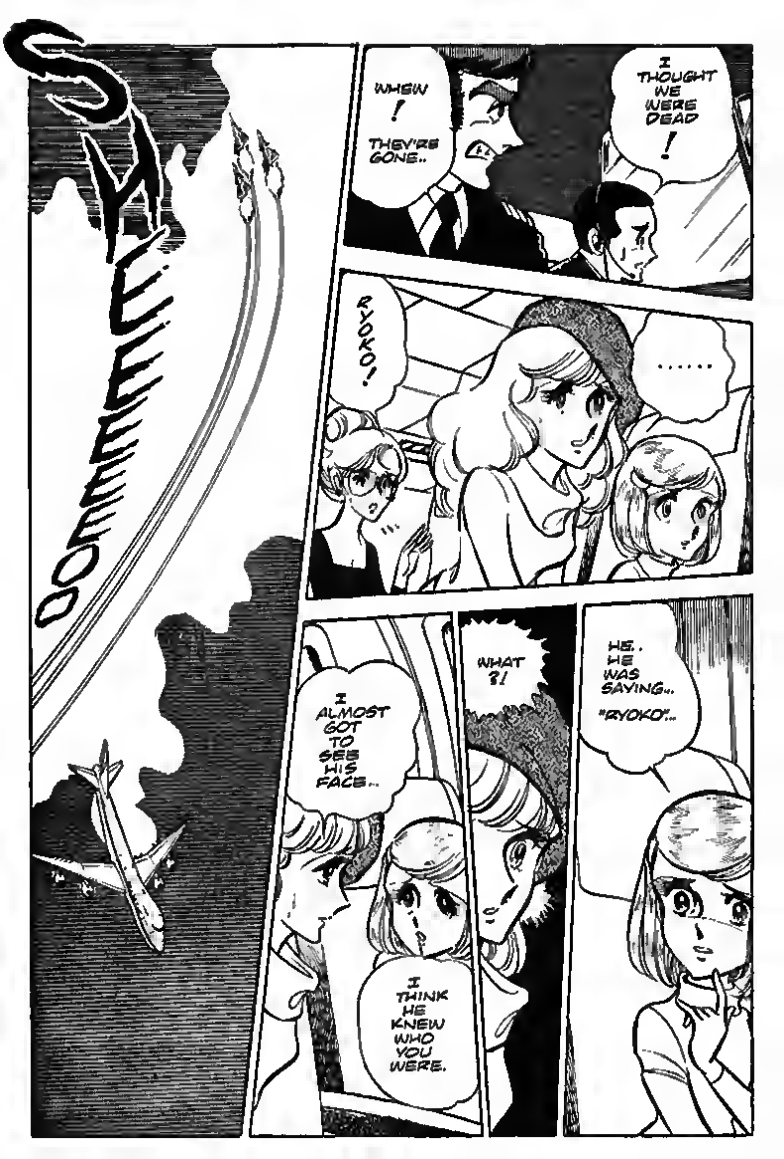

VLEO
RYOKO RYOKO WHERE ARE YOU ?!
YAMATO AIRLINES
RYOKO, A MILITARY PLANE'S FLYING RIGHT NEXT TO US !
RYOKO !

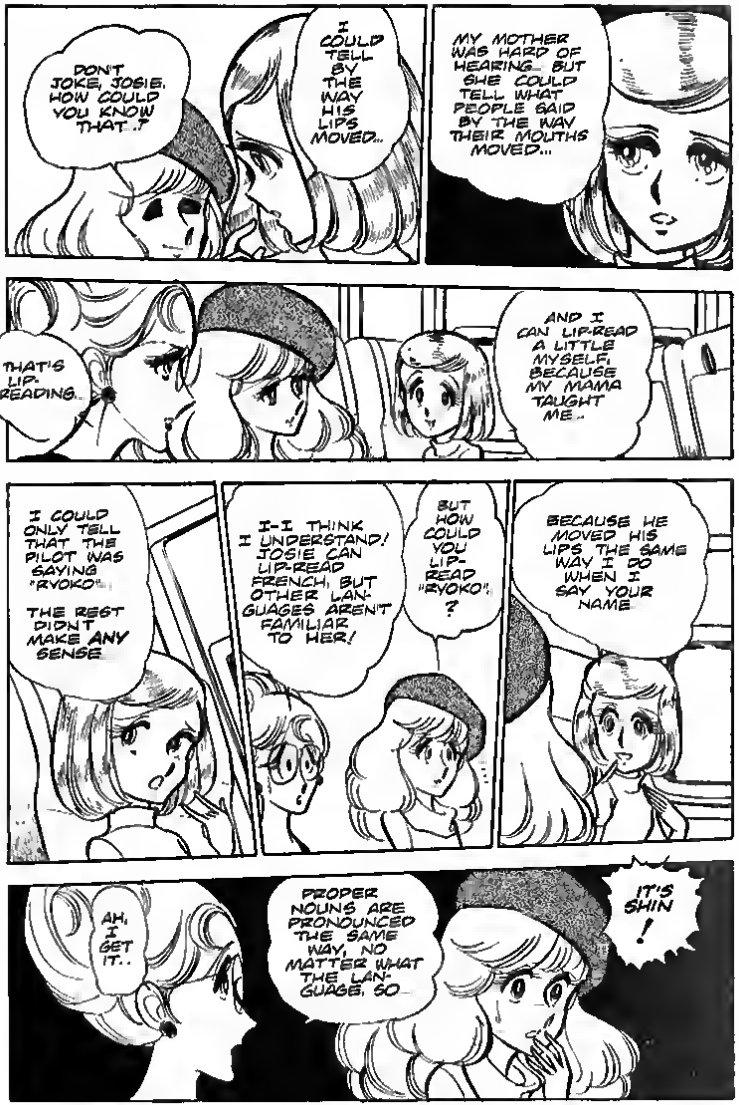
IT'S DANGEROUS! GET AWAY FROM THE WINDOW!
O-OKAY... BUT...
RYOKO, THAT PILOT IS TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING!
WHAT?!
DAMN! SHE CAN'T RECOGNIZE ME WITH MY HELMET ON!
RYOKO!
WAIT! HE'S TRYING TO REMOVE HIS HELMET!
DAMN!
AHH!


VEEOOOOM
YAHH !!
SHEEOOOOM
BRRC
SHIN, HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?! THAT'S A CIVILIAN PLANE !

MICK GET AWAY! I'LL SHOOT YOU DOWN IF YOU DONT GET AWAY!
WHO IS THAT ?!
GO BACK, SHIN! GO BACK TO THE BASE, OR I SWEAR, I'LL SHOOT YOU OUT OF THE SKY!
SAKI !!

PLEASE, SAKI, LET ME GO! I HAVE TO SHOW MYSELF TO HER...
SHOW HER I'M ALIVE!
SAKI, PLEASE!
NO, SHIN!
IF YOU KEEP FLYING AROUND THAT AIRLINER, THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE WILL COME UP HERE AND SHOOT US ALL DOWN!
ASEAN HAS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL! YOU SHOT AT THAT PLANE! THIS IS SERIOUS!
D-DAMN... uhh...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, BUT YOU'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE... NOW!
ALL RIGHT...!


SWEEEEOO
I THOUGHT WE WERE DEAD!
WHEW! THEY'RE GONE..
RYOKO!
.....
HE.. HE WAS SAYING.. "RYOKO"..
WHAT?!
I ALMOST GOT TO SEE HIS FACE..
I THINK HE KNEW WHO YOU WERE.

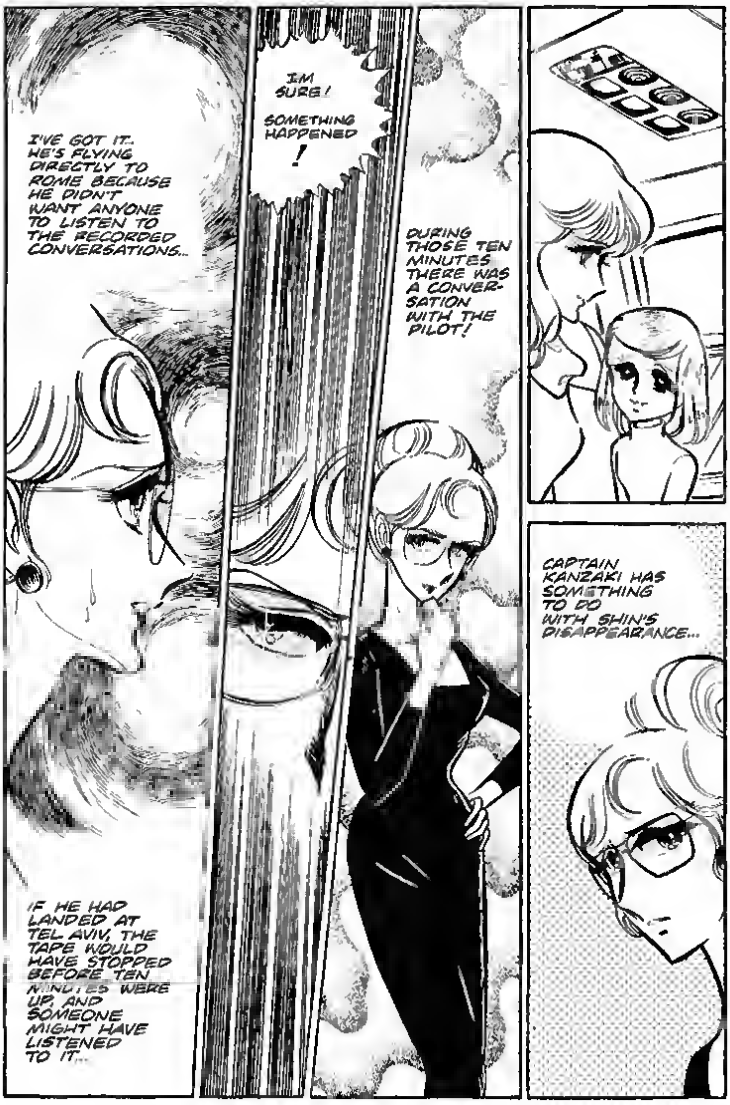

DON'T JOKE, JOSIE. HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT..?
I COULD TELL BY THE WAY HIS LIPS MOVED..
MY MOTHER WAS HARD OF HEARING... BUT SHE COULD TELL WHAT PEOPLE SAID BY THE WAY THEIR MOUTHS MOVED...
THAT'S LIP-READING..
AND I CAN LIP-READ A LITTLE MYSELF, BECAUSE MY MAMA TAUGHT ME..
I COULD ONLY TELL THAT THE PILOT WAS SAYING "RYOKO".. THE REST DIDN'T MAKE ANY SENSE..
I-I THINK I UNDERSTAND! JOSIE CAN LIP-READ FRENCH, BUT OTHER LANGUAGES AREN'T FAMILIAR TO HER!
BUT HOW COULD YOU LIP-READ "RYOKO"..?
BECAUSE HE MOVED HIS LIPS THE SAME WAY I DO WHEN I SAY YOUR NAME
AH, I GET IT..
PROPER NOUNS ARE PRONOUNCED THE SAME WAY, NO MATTER WHAT THE LANGUAGE, SO...
IT'S SHIN!

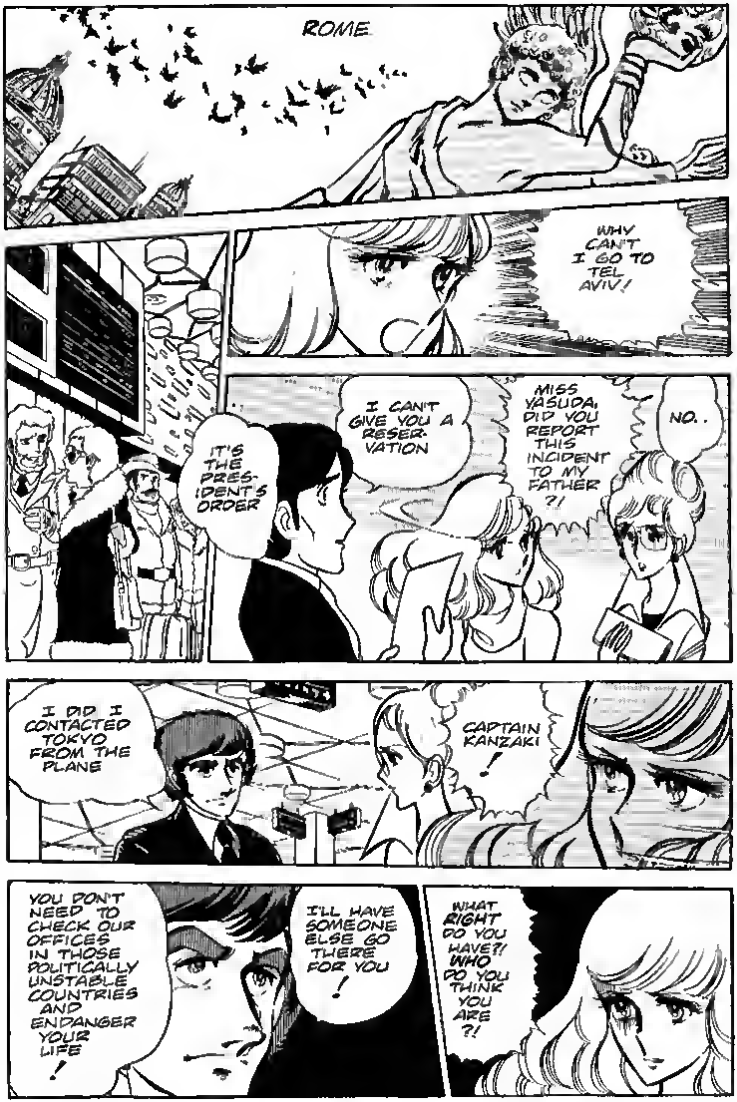
HE CALLED MY NAME! HE RECOGNIZED ME THROUGH SUCH A SMALL WINDOW!
IT'S GHIN!
IM POSITIVE!
.....
♪DING!♪
ATTENTION, PLEASE! THIS PLANE WAS JUST ATTACKED BY A MILITARY JET FROM ASRAN PLEASE DO NOT BE CONCERNED THERE IS NO DAMAGE TO THIS PLANE!
WHAT?!
HOWEVER THERE IS A CRACK IN THE COCKPIT WINDOW SINCE THERE ARE NO SPARE PARTS IN TEL AVIV, WE WILL BE FLYING DIRECTLY TO ROME WE ARE SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.
PASSENGERS WHO WERE DEPLANING AT TEL AVIV AND ATHENS WILL BE GIVEN SUBSTITUTE FLIGHTS FROM ROME AFTER WE LAND
PLEASE FEEL AT EASE
ATTACK...?
HE ATTACKED US KNOWING THAT YOU WERE ON THIS PLANE...?
IT CAN'T BE...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

I'LL GO TO THE COCKPIT!
CHIEF PURSER, PLEASE LET ME USE THE INTER-COM!
I NEED TO SPEAK TO THE CAPTAIN
Y-YES, MA'AM. RIGHT THIS WAY
CAPTAIN KANZAKI? THIS IS RYOKO..
MAY I COME INTO THE COCKPIT?
WELL, THAT WAS QUICK
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THE MACHINE GUN SHELL ALMOST HIT HERE IT WAS CLOSE...
OH..
BY THE WAY... DID YOU COMMUN-ICATE WITH THE PILOT?

NO... HE FIRED WITHOUT ANY WARNING I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON...
IN THIS AREA, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AIRWAYS GET ENTANGLED WITH EACH OTHER. THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF POLITICALLY UNSTABLE COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
IT'S A DANGEROUS PLACE TO FLY.
WELL, I'M GLAD IT DIDN'T TURN OUT TO BE A DISASTER.
YES...
VEEOOOOOO
HOW WAS IT?
VERY SERIOUS THERE WERE CRACKS ALL OVER THE WINDOWS
CAPTAIN KANZAKI WAS ALMOST HIT.
I WISH HE HAD BEEN
YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THAT EVEN THOUGH I DON'T LIKE HIM, HE REALLY IS A FIRST-CLASS CAPTAIN.
OKAY..
.....

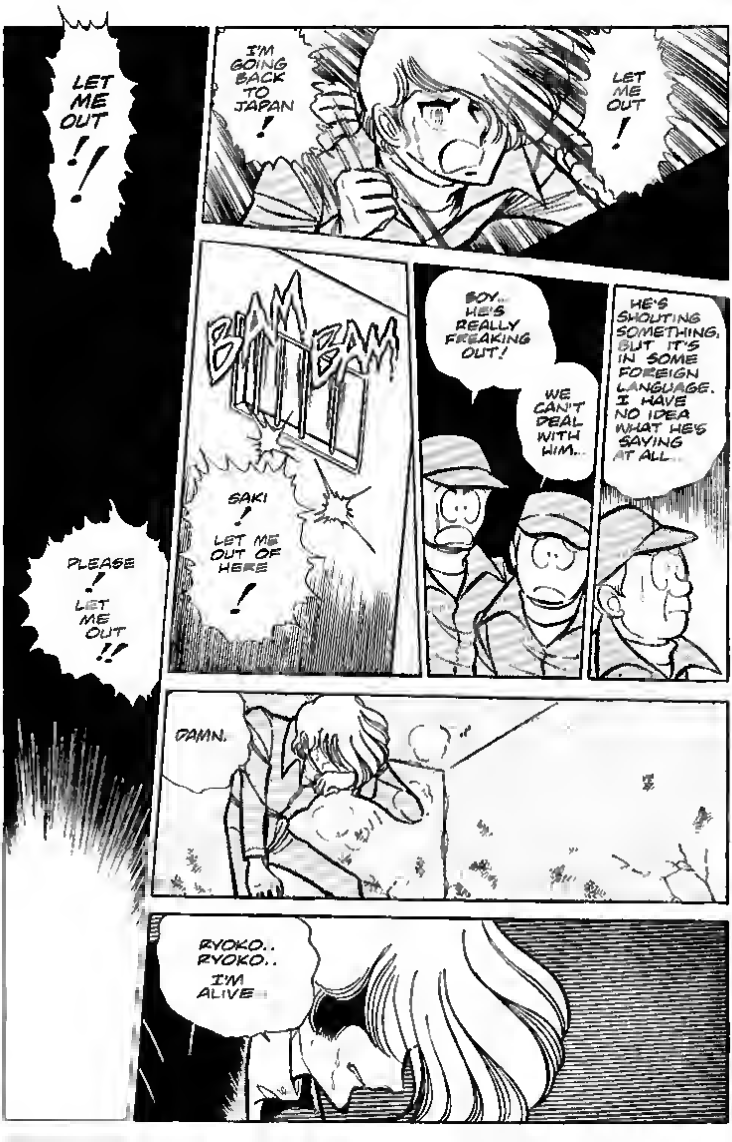
IF THE WINDSHIELD WAS FULL OF CRACKS, WHY DIDN'T HE MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING AT TEL AVIV INSTEAD OF GOING TO ROME...?
THERE MUST BE A BETTER REASON THAN THAT SPARE PARTS EXCUSE...
...THE VOICE RECORDER...
SOMETHING MIGHT BE RECORDED ON IT...
THE INCIDENT HAPPENED AROUND 1:20...
1:40 PM
OH, NO!
MORE THAN TWENTY MINUTES HAVE PASSED SINCE THEN..
THE TAPE LOOP IS ONLY TEN MINUTES LONG
THE TAPE HAS GONE AROUND ALREADY, AND EVERYTHING'S BEEN TAPED OVER..


I'VE GOT IT. HE'S FLYING DIRECTLY TO ROME BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO LISTEN TO THE RECORDED CONVERSATIONS...
I'M SURE! SOMETHING HAPPENED!
DURING THOSE TEN MINUTES THERE WAS A CONVERSATION WITH THE PILOT!
IF HE HAD LANDED AT TEL AVIV, THE TAPE WOULD HAVE STOPPED BEFORE TEN MINUTES WERE UP, AND SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE LISTENED TO IT...
CAPTAIN KANZAKI HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH SHIN'S DISAPPEARANCE...


ROME
WHY CAN'T I GO TO TEL AVIV!
NO..
MISS YASUDA, DID YOU REPORT THIS INCIDENT TO MY FATHER?!
I CAN'T GIVE YOU A RESERVATION
IT'S THE PRESIDENT'S ORDER
CAPTAIN KANZAKI!
I DID I CONTACTED TOKYO FROM THE PLANE
WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE?! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
I'LL HAVE SOMEONE ELSE GO THERE FOR YOU!
YOU DON'T NEED TO CHECK OUR OFFICES IN THOSE POLITICALLY UNSTABLE COUNTRIES AND ENDANGER YOUR LIFE!

PLEASE GET TOKYO ON THE LINE.
STOP BEING SO SELFISH!
SELFISH?!
YES-- SELFISH! DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT ALTHOUGH YOU WORK FOR US AS A MEMBER OF THE SALES DEPARTMENT, THAT'S ONLY YOUR OFFICIAL TITLE!
YOU'VE NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED JUST HOW MANY PEOPLE IN OUR AIRLINE WORRY ABOUT YOU EVERY TIME YOU GO ABROAD!
IF YOU WERE REALLY JUST A MEMBER OF THE SALES DEPARTMENT, YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TRAVEL AROUND IN FIRST-CLASS LUXURY ALL THE TIME!
NOT ONLY THAT-- YOU BROUGHT AN ORPHAN WITH YOU! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
NOBODY SPEAKS UP, BECAUSE YOU'RE THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER!
CAPTAIN KANZAKI...
YOU SHOULDN'T TALK THIS WAY!
SHUT UP!
I'VE SAID ENOUGH TO GET ME FIRED, SO I MIGHT AS WELL GO ALL THE WAY!
YOU CAN TELL YOUR FATHER WHATEVER YOU WANT, MISS TSUGUMO...

YOU'RE STILL A YOUNG, SINGLE WOMAN. YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL... PLEASE DON'T BE SO RECKLESS.
.....
YOUR WORK, AND OUR AIRLINE, ARE IMPORTANT. BUT DON'T FORGET... THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO WORRY ABOUT YOUR SAFETY.
SO PLEASE-- FORGIVE MY BEING SO FORWARD...
WHAT A MAN!
HE'S FANTASTIC!
HE SURE TOLD HER A THING OR TWO!
SHE'S IN TROUBLE! I ALLOWED HIM TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE
HE MANAGED TO CANCEL RYOKO'S TRIP AND RAISE HIS OWN ESTEEM IN ONE FELL SWOOP AND I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT..
IT'S MY BIGGEST MISTAKE YET..
SATORU KANZAKI... YOU'LL SEE... I WILL FORCE YOU TO SHOW YOUR TRUE COLORS, NO MATTER WHAT!


I'M GOING BACK TO JAPAN!
LET ME OUT!
LET ME OUT!!
BAM BAM
SAKI! LET ME OUT OF HERE!
PLEASE! LET ME OUT!!
BOY.. HE'S REALLY FREAKING OUT!
WE CAN'T DEAL WITH HIM..
HE'S SHOUTING SOMETHING, BUT IT'S IN SOME FOREIGN LANGUAGE. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S SAYING AT ALL...
DAMN.
RYOKO.. RYOKO.. I'M ALIVE..

SAKI... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH SHIN?
PROPERLY SPEAKING, HE SHOULD BE SHOT IN THE MORNING.
BUT I MAY NOT BE ALIVE TOMORROW.
TOMORROW.
RYOKO...
WELL... IF SHIN IS EXECUTED, JUST BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU AND I NEXT MAKE A SORTIE TOGETHER.
THERE MIGHT BE AN ACCIDENT.
MICK, ARE YOU THREATENING YOUR SUPERIOR OFFICER ?!
TAKE IT ANY WAY YOU LIKE. I'VE GOT AN EARLY RUN, AND IT'S LATE. NIGHTY NIGHT.
.....

TO BE CONTINUED